[10th August 1929

Consumption of foreign liquor in this province.

* 237 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing the number of licences issued for sale of foreign liquor imported or locally manufactured in the Madras Presidency in the years 1926–27, 1927–28 and 1928–29 and the fees recovered therefor by the Excise Department; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) whether Government have discovered an increase of consumption of foreign liquors during the years 1926–27 to 1928–29 and, if so, to what extent; and

(*b*) what has been the amount of increase in the consumption of foreign liquors during the same period in the taluks mentioned in the answer to my question No. 1932 answered on 27th March 1929 in which total prohibition in regard to country liquor has been introduced?

A.—(i)

Year.	Number of licences issued.	Amount of fees realized.
		RS.
1926–27	359	4,62,213
1927–28	365	4,10,900

(ii) (*a*) The consumption of foreign liquor in the Presidency during the years commencing from 1925–26 was—

1925–26	709,768 gallons.
1926–27	848,051 ,,
1927–28	929,275 ,,

(*b*) The consumption of foreign liquor during the same period in the following five taluks in which the experimental closure of arrack shops was in force, was as follows:—

Taluk.	1925–26. Gallons.	1926–27. Gallons.	1927–28. Gallons.
Shiyali	103	87	130
Tirutturaippundi ...	120	159	339
Tiruvadanai ...	240	255	203
Tenkasi	325	408	431
Attur ...	No foreign liquor shop in this taluk.		

The Government are not in possession of the figures for 1928–29 but have called for them.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"With reference to the answer to clause (ii) (*b*) of the question, in view of the consumption of European liquor, may I know whether the Government are going to take any steps for reducing the consumption of liquor?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"In two or three taluks the shops have been closed."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"May I know whether licences to shops in the whole Presidency will be decreased in the same proportion as is shown in these three columns in this answer?"

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The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" These three taluks are placed under an experiment for prohibition work being carried out, and we have proposed to close the shops in that area. Whether the shops will be closed in other areas on the same scale or not I cannot say. But the policy of the Government is to close liquor shops wherever it is possible to do so."

Medical

Action taken on the recommendations of the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council.

*238 Q.—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what orders Government have passed on the recommendations contained in the report of the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council that were said to be under consideration in the answer to question No. 1037-A answered on 28th January 1929 ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1374, P.H., dated the 31st May 1929, laid on the table.[a]

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know from the hon. Minister if separate provision is going to be made for the treatment of women that attend the General Hospital ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" A specialist has been appointed, and what further steps have to be taken is under consideration."

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know why a woman medical officer has not been sanctioned to attend to women patients that attend this hospital for venearal disease complaints ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That will be considered."

Grants to the Madras Social Hygiene Council for propaganda work.

*239 Q.—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether any grant has been sanctioned to the Madras Social Hygiene Council for the current year for carrying on propaganda throughout the Presidency and if so, what it is ?

A.—No.

Grant of scholarships to teachers to study Social Hygiene in England.

*240 Q.—Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what action has been taken on the recommendation of the Indian Delegation of the British Social Hygiene Council to grant scholarships to teachers to study Social Hygiene in England ?

A.—The Government did not consider it necessary for the present to grant scholarships to trained teachers to enable them to study Social Hygiene in England. The question will be considered in connexion with the scheme of anti-venereal work to be organized by the specialist in venereal diseases.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on pages 577-579 infra.